

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A paint roller frame comprising a shaft having a handle portion fixedly secured to a handle and a roller cage assembly mounted on the opposite end of said shaft for supporting a paint roller sleeve thereon, wherein:

said roller cage assembly is generally perpendicular to said shaft's handle portion;
said roller cage assembly comprises a bearing portion and an outer portion which is removable to permit replacement of the roller sleeve;

said bearing portion is mounted on said shaft that is passing through an opening in the bearing portion;

said bearing portion has a supporting surface to support the paint roller sleeve and an annular (inner) face against which an adjacent (inner) end surface of the roller sleeve core can be urged to prevent the paint roller sleeve from axial sliding and to inhibit paint flow into the interior of the core;

said outer portion having a supporting surface to support the paint roller sleeve and an annular (outer) face against which an adjacent (outer) end surface of the roller sleeve core can be urged to prevent the paint roller sleeve from axial sliding and to inhibit paint flow into the core interior;

said bearing portion and said outer portion further comprising mating connection means and, for painting, ~~directly and firmly connected using these~~ forming a mating connection between said portions means having characteristics that ensure fast and tight trapping of the core and that prevent weakening of the sleeve squeezing while painting.

Claims 2 (original): A paint roller frame as claimed in claim 1 further comprising two resilient washers adjacent to said inner and outer annular faces to significantly improve sealing of the core's interior and to create a strain that prevents unscrewing of the outer portion and, therefore, further ensures secure sleeve squeezing during painting.

Claims 3 (original): A paint roller frame as claimed in claim 1 where said bearing portion further comprises a washer to prevent leaks inside the roller cage assembly along the shaft through said opening in the bearing portion.

Claims 4 (original): A paint roller frame as claimed in claim 1 where the length of said roller cage assembly is adjustable by repositioning of the roller cage parts allowing usage of the same roller frame with roller sleeves of different lengths.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claims 6 (original): A paint roller frame as claimed in claim 1 wherein said roller cage can be removed from the shaft, disassembled for maintenance or replacement of worn parts, assembled again, and mounted on the shaft with the help of conventional tools.

Claims 7 (original): A paint roller frame as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a clip-on end wig that can be mounted on the cylinder surface of said annular face of the outer

end assembly comprising of a cap and a painting portion attached to the cap; said painting portion made of a material similar to the covering of the paint roller sleeve.

Claim 8 (previously amended): A paint roller frame as claimed in claim 1 with a conventional U-shaped shaft also comprising a hook located near the end of the shaft's handle portion that is close to the paint roller sleeve; such a position of the hook allows the roller frame to be mounted higher on a grid (a paint rack) fastened in a paint bucket; the hook that is located this way keeps the roller sleeve resting above the paint in the highest possible position to let more paint be pored in the paint bucket without the paint roller sleeve soaking the paint.

Claim 9 (previously amended): A paint roller frame as claimed in claim 1 with a conventional U-shaped shaft also comprising a plastic sheathing for the portion of the metallic shaft of the paint roller frame adjacent to the paint roller cage assembly to eliminate dark marks on walls as a result of occasional touching walls by said portion of the shaft during painting.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claims 11 - 17 (withdrawn)